

BOOK THIEF SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS

For ten years Fitzeae Lee Opie stole from the Library of Congress. Yesterday a judge threw the book at him. Opie, an Old Town fixture, who is the great great grand nephew of Robert E. Lee was sentenced to six months in prison. "Grim" was Opie's only words. The 62-year-old Opie had no excuses. He told the judge he did not have an alcohol problem, had never taken drugs, had no history of mental illness and had very fine parents. On the other hand, "I've been obsessed with books all my life," Opie said. That, combined with severe financial difficulties in 1982, led to frequent visits to the Library. Last March 7, a member of the library security saw Opie, who had long been under suspicion, take 3 books to a secluded area where he began pulling material out of one of the books. Soon after, he was arrested by a library detective. Two maps were found under his sweater, both relating to Pacific Railway surveys. A search of his car revealed 2 gutted military books, both stamped: Library of Congress. The total value of the 4 items was calculated at \$1,200. Opie described to the court his practice of buying for a few dollars "cripples," a term for books missing a plate or a chapter. He would then take the same volume from the library, remove what he needed

and rebind it in his copy. The result: a whole book that could be sold in his Old Town bookshop for much more than he had paid for it. Sometimes he merely stole plates and sold them. "This is not the case of a mother getting a loaf of bread for a starving child," Opie acknowledged to the judge, "I was wrong, dead wrong." No one knows how much he stole; a lot, the prosecution argued. After he was caught, the bookseller said in court, "I took 4 to 6 little plastic bags of books and plates out of my store to dumpsters in Alexandria. I threw out anything after my arrest that in my panic, I thought could possibly contain an illegal shred of evidence." Opie was ordered to pay \$1,200 restitution. He was ordered for three years not to enter any federal library

CHICKEN LAW BROKEN, WOMAN DOES TIME

Linda's gone to jail to keep her brood together. Goobelle, Bobba Buff, Nippy and the others, 18 pet chickens. She's serving up to 18 days. "She's been good, so she's probably in for 10 days," her 9-year-old daughter Leslie says. Charged August 14 with a brood but no permit. When village Police Chief Capuzzi sighted the chickens, Linda was arrested and jailed. She got the first chicken in spring when her husband brought chickens home to